

In the Claims

The substitute specification includes a complete listing of the claims. Claims 3 through 40 are newly presented. A complete listing of the claims is as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (New) A method for immobilizing a target, the method comprising:
 - a step for providing a device comprising a first electrode, a second electrode, a signal generator, and an electrode deployment apparatus that deploys the second electrode;
 - a step for restraining movement of the second electrode with respect to the first electrode;
 - a step for removing restraint of the second electrode with respect to the first electrode after the first electrode makes contact with the target, so that the second electrode initially moves away from the target to make contact with the target a distance away from where the first electrode made contact with the target; and
 - a step for providing a stimulus signal via the signal generator, the first electrode, and the second electrode.
4. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein:
 - the device further comprises a casing and a plug that in a first position restrains the second electrode within the casing from movement with respect to the first electrode; and
 - the step for removing comprises urging the plug away from the first position.
5. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein the step for providing the deployment apparatus comprises a step for providing a translating member that translates with respect to the casing to urge the plug away from the first position.
6. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the step for releasing comprises a step for defeating a fastener.
7. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein the step for defeating the fastener comprises a step for defeating a break-away tab.
8. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein:
 - the step for providing the device further comprises a step for providing a casing and a translating member that translates with respect to the casing; and

the step for removing comprises a step for translating by the translating member.

9. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein the step for translating releases a latch to remove restraint.

10. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the step for removing comprises a step for propelling the second electrode away from the first electrode.

11. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the step for propelling propels the second electrode initially in a direction away from the target.

12. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the step for providing the device further comprises providing a tether that mechanically couples the second electrode and the first electrode, the tether exhibiting elasticity to effect a forceful impact of the second electrode and the target.

13. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the second electrode comprises a first barb directed in a first direction, a second barb directed in a second direction, and a third barb directed in a third direction.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the first direction, second direction, and third direction, are mutually orthogonal.

15. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein:

the step for restraining movement of the second electrode with respect to the first electrode further restrains movement of the signal generator with respect to the first electrode; and

the step for removing restraint permits the second electrode and at least a portion of the signal generator to move with respect to the first electrode.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein a mass of the second electrode and the portion of the signal generator exceeds half of a total mass of the device.

17. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the portion of the signal generator comprises a power source.

18. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the step for removing uses an energy of impact of the device and the target.

19. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the step for removing comprises redirecting a momentum of impact of the device and the target into motion of the second electrode.

20. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the step for providing the device further provides the device packaged for use as a projectile.

21. (New) A device for immobilizing a target, the device comprising:
- a first electrode,
 - a second electrode,
 - means for deploying the second electrode away from the first electrode, comprising:
 - (1) means for restraining movement of the second electrode with respect to the first electrode; and
 - (2) means for removing restraint of the second electrode with respect to the first electrode after the first electrode makes contact with the target, so that the second electrode initially moves away from the target to make contact with the target a distance away from where the first electrode made contact with the target; and
 - means for generating a stimulus signal in a circuit comprising the first electrode and the second electrode.
22. (New) A device for immobilizing a target, the device comprising:
- a first portion comprising a first electrode for contact with a target;
 - a second portion comprising:
 - (1) a second electrode for contact with the target; and
 - (2) a tether that maintains electrical communication between the first portion and the second portion;
 - a signal generator that provides a stimulus signal via the first electrode and the second electrode to immobilize the target; and
 - a coupling that couples the first portion to the second portion to transport the immobilization device as a unit, and that, after the first portion makes contact with the target, releases the second portion from the first portion, so that the second portion moves away from the target, to deploy the second electrode a distance away from the first electrode.
23. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the coupling comprises a casing and a translating member that moves with respect to the casing in response to impact of the device and the target to release the second portion from the first portion.
24. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the coupling comprises a fastener that is defeated in response to impact of the device and the target to release the second portion from the first portion.
25. (New) The device of claim 24 wherein the fastener comprises a break-away tab.

26. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the coupling comprises a latch that is released in response to impact of the device and the target to release the second portion from the first portion.
27. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the coupling comprises a propellant that propels the second electrode away from the first electrode.
28. (New) The device of claim 27 wherein the propellant propels the second electrode initially in a direction away from the target.
29. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the tether exhibits elasticity to effect a forceful impact of the second electrode and the target.
30. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the second electrode comprises a first barb directed in a first direction, a second barb directed in a second direction, and a third barb directed in a third direction.
31. (New) The device of claim 30 wherein the first direction, second direction, and third direction, are mutually orthogonal.
32. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the second portion further comprises a portion of the signal generator.
33. (New) The device of claim 32 wherein a total mass of the second portion exceeds a total mass of the first portion.
34. (New) The device of claim 32 wherein the portion of the signal generator comprises a power source.
35. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the coupling uses an energy of impact of the device and the target to release the second portion from the first portion.
36. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the coupling redirects a momentum of impact of the device and the target into motion of the second portion away from the first portion.
37. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the first portion further comprises a third electrode to come into contact with the target as a consequence of movement of the target.
38. (New) A projectile comprising the immobilization device of claim 22.
39. (New) A cartridge comprising the projectile of claim 38.
40. (New) A system for immobilizing a target comprising:
a projectile according to claim 38; and
means for propelling the projectile toward a target.

41. (New) A method for immobilizing a target, the method comprising:
- providing a device comprising a first electrode, a second electrode, a signal generator, and an electrode deployment apparatus that deploys the second electrode;
 - restraining movement of the second electrode with respect to the first electrode;
 - removing restraint of the second electrode with respect to the first electrode after the first electrode makes contact with the target, so that the second electrode initially moves away from the target to make contact with the target a distance away from where the first electrode made contact with the target; and
 - providing a stimulus signal via the signal generator, the first electrode, and the second electrode.
42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein:
- the device further comprises a casing and a plug that in a first position restrains the second electrode within the casing from movement with respect to the first electrode; and
 - removing comprises urging the plug away from the first position.
43. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein providing the deployment apparatus comprises providing a translating member that translates with respect to the casing to urge the plug away from the first position.
44. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein releasing comprises defeating a fastener.
45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein defeating the fastener comprises defeating a break-away tab.
46. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein:
- providing the device further comprises providing a casing and a translating member that translates with respect to the casing; and
 - removing comprises translating by the translating member.
47. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein translating releases a latch to remove restraint.
48. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein removing comprises propelling the second electrode away from the first electrode.
49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein propelling propels the second electrode initially in a direction away from the target.
50. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein providing the device further comprises providing a tether that mechanically couples the second electrode and the first electrode, the tether exhibiting

elasticity to effect a forceful impact of the second electrode and the target.

51. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the second electrode comprises a first barb directed in a first direction, a second barb directed in a second direction, and a third barb directed in a third direction.

52. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the first direction, second direction, and third direction, are mutually orthogonal.

53. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein:

restraining movement of the second electrode with respect to the first electrode further restrains movement of the signal generator with respect to the first electrode; and

removing restraint permits the second electrode and at least a portion of the signal generator to move with respect to the first electrode.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein a mass of the second electrode and the portion of the signal generator exceeds half of a total mass of the device.

55. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the portion of the signal generator comprises a power source.

56. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein removing uses an energy of impact of the device and the target.

57. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein removing comprises redirecting a momentum of impact of the device and the target into motion of the second electrode.

58. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein providing the device further provides the device packaged for use as a projectile.